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Message Text

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16
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 SCI-06 OIC-04 HEW-08 RSR-01 /130 W
---------- 036320
P R 260941 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4134
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1787

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: WHO, UN, KS, KN, MY
SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA- ROK SPECIAL ENVOY

REF: STATE 077672

1. IN RESPONSE REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION GOM' S POSITION AS PER REFTEL, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (UN AFFAIRS) ANTHONY YEO TODAY INFORMED EMBOFF GOM INTENDS TO OPPOSE ROK RESOLUTION TO DEFER CONSIDERATION NORTH KOREA' S APPLICATION SLR WHO MEMBERSHIP AT UPCOMING WHA. HE EX-PLAINED THAT GOM CONSIDERED IT LEGITIMATE TOPIC FOR WHA CONSIDERATION.

2. ON NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION FOR WHO MEMBERSHIP, YEO STATED GOM WOULD ABSTAIN IF MALAYSIAN- PYONGYANG TIES HAD NOT BEEN CONSUMMATED, BUT SUPPORT IF RELATIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. GOM, HE SAID, CONSIDERED MEMBERSHIP IN WHO A TECHNICAL QUESTION AND, THEREFORE, BELIEVED THAT ITS SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREA' S APPLICATION WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A POLITICAL BIAS BETWEEN SEOUL AND PYONGYANG. OUT OF CON-SIDERATION FOR ROK, YEO SAID THERE IS PRESSURE IN MFA TO
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POSTPONE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA UNTIL AFTER WHA VOTE. HE ADDED, THAT HE HIMSELF IS STRONGLY ADVOCATING SUCH A MOVE.

3. IN REPLY TO EMBOFF QUESTION, YEO REVEALED THAT GOM HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO SUPPORT MOTION TO DEFER KOREAN QUESTION AT UPCOMING UNGA. HE EXPLAINED THAT GOM CONSIDERED MEMBER-SHIP IN UN A POLITICAL QUESTION AND, THEREFORE, WOULD NOT WISH TO TAKE SIDES ON THAT ISSUE.

4. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION YEO ADOPTED VERY DEFENSIVE ATTITUDE IN EXPLAINING THAT GOM' S DECISION TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA NOT DESIGNED IN ANY WAY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT ROK' S INTEREST. ON THE CONTRARY, HE ARGUED, GOM HOPED TO ASSIST ROK BY BEINGIN BETTER POSITION TO INFLUENCE PYONGYANG. HE MAINTAINED TIS POSITION IN THE FACE OF EMBOFF' S ARGU-MENT THAT GOM RECOGNITION NORTH KOREA LIKELY TO RENDER LATTER MORE INTRANSIGENT IN NORTH- SOUTH KOREA DIALOGUE.
CHESLAW

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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